"High Treason"

3/27/89

Day before yesterday Harry Livingstone phoned me for the third time since his book was printed. I also had the mailing in this file from one I take to be a friend of his. On his second call he invited me to a press conference they are having at the National Press Club in D.C. April 13 and I then wondered where he is getting the money when he has appeared to be broke. He'd told me on the first call that a printer extended his $27,000 in cedit when he printed the book. In any event, I told him I'd not be able to be there because I can't safely drive that far and because the trip, when I'm driven by a professional driver, tires me too much. Which is the truth and has been for some years.

On his third call he appeared to be quite pleased with the progress he is making and the prospects of the press conference and with sales. The one I remember is 600 copies to Tom Davis, Aptos, CA. On his second call he told me he'd had about 10 minutes on a Baltimore TV news program, which I'd not seen or heard of, and that he expects more time on that station. I am not now clear on whether it was this station or more that he referred to on his third call when he told me they'd have TV coverage.

Among those he expects at the press conference is Cyril Wecht. He says that Cyril is now satisfied that the pictures are doctored or faked. I think he said that Congressman Gonzalez will be there, perhaps others also from the Hill.

On one of the last two calls and I'm not now sure which he told me he is considering a second printing of 50,000 copies. I asked him if so large a print was wise when he was not sure of selling all of them and when he could always go back to press. The thrust of his response is that he was confident of selling them. I asked him how the book was printed, was it by the belt system, which is faster and cheaper than the older method. He appeared not to be familiar with belt, which is not all that new, and he indicated the printer used the older, traditional method.

I noticed in yesterday's Wx Post book-review section that he missed an ooportunity to be listed in their monthly calendar of literary events, which appeared yesterday.

He seems to have assumed that I would agree with what they have written and would be happy to appear and extol it. This leads me to believe, as I indicated earlier in commenting on the book as I read it, that he has never read any of my books. I think that where he cited them, as in a very few instabces he did, with page numberss, he picked that up from other citations of them. This also would account for he not seeming to realize that he was citing as original ssources what was cribbed from my books. I can't visualize his having consciously plagarized and then inviting me to be at his press conference. This is particularly true after what I wrote him about cribbing when he'd sent me a couple of chapters printed out for my comment. I had cautioned him about appearings to take my work as his own. I then told him that while I was used to it there would be other critics who could spot this and hold it against him and Robert.

This last call he offered to send a car for me. At the time I felt he went a hired car but he could have meant a friend. I told him again - could not.